
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 1999

Rhode Island Department of Health Office of Health Statistics

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This brief summary presents information on health risk behaviors among Rhode Island adults in 1999 based on data from Rhode Island's Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS). The BRFS, sponsored in all 50 states and 4 territories by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, monitors the prevalence of behavioral risk factors for the leading causes of sickness and death among adults in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFS since 1984.

Each month during 1999 the Rhode Island BRFS conducted telephone interviews with approximately 334 randomly selected Rhode Islanders ages 18 and older, for a total of 4,003 during the calendar year. Rhode Island's 1999 survey was conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

This report contains statistics on fourteen major health risks of Rhode Island adults in 1999. These findings are also displayed by gender, and health status and access indicators are displayed by health insurance coverage status for working age adults (ages 18-64).

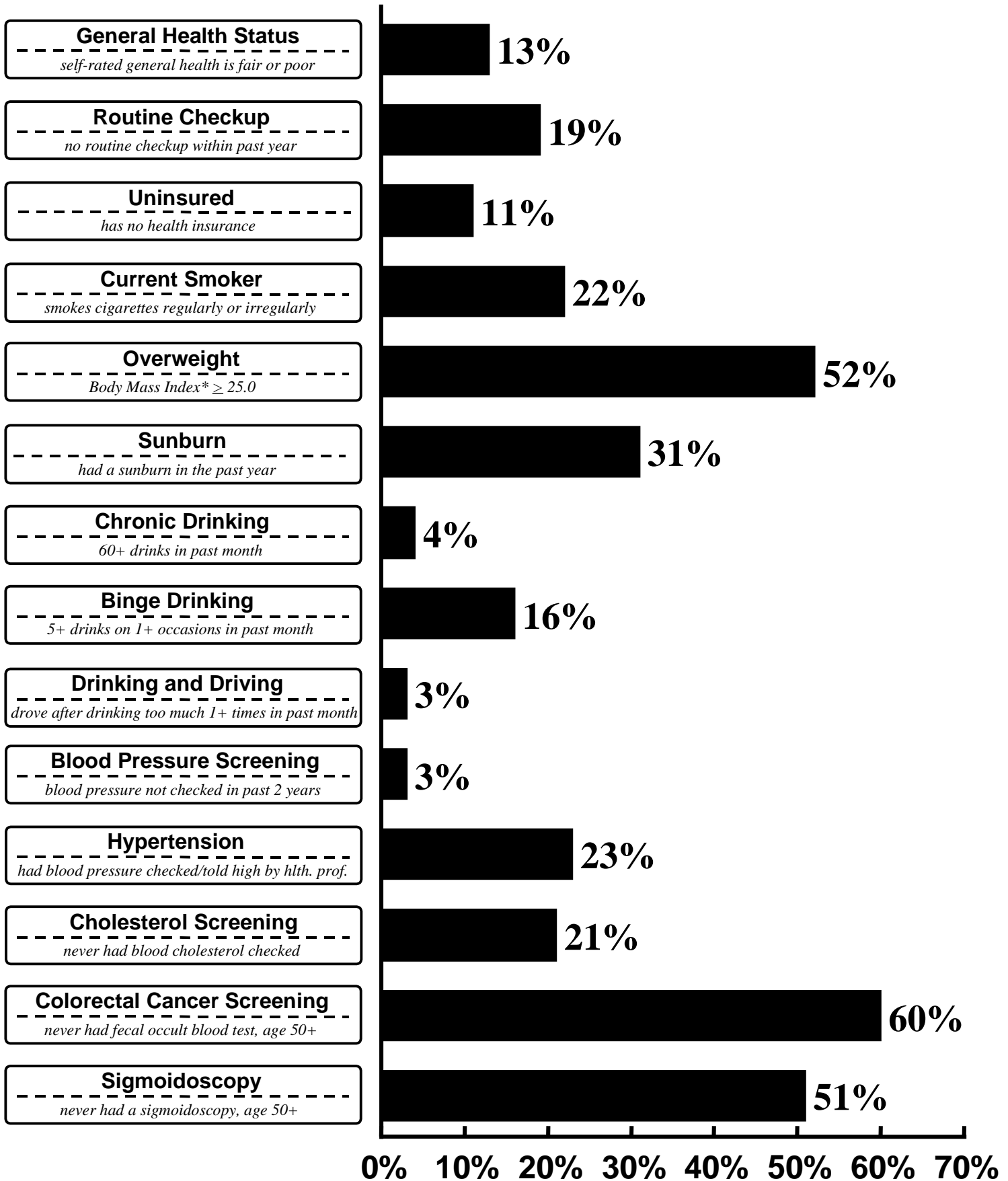
For information on survey methods and health risk definitions go to www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/brfss or contact the Office of Health Statistics, Rhode Island Department of Health (401-222-2550)

Highlights

- More than 1 in 5 (22%) Rhode Island adults were current smokers, 52% were overweight, and 11% were uninsured (Figure 1).
- Men were more likely than women not to have had a routine checkup within the past year (25% vs. 13%), more likely to be overweight (63% vs. 42%), and more likely to have had a sunburn in the past year (36% vs. 27%) (Figure 2).
- The rates for both binge drinking and chronic drinking were three times higher among men than women; men were also more likely to drive after drinking too much (Figure 2).
- Adults between the ages of 18 and 64 without health insurance coverage were less likely than those with health coverage to have participated in routine health screening tests. The uninsured were much less likely to have had a routine checkup within the past year (42% vs 19%), and had lower rates for blood pressure and blood cholesterol screening, and for colorectal cancer screening (fecal occult blood test, sigmoidoscopy) (Figure 3).
- Uninsured women were more likely than insured women not to have had a mammogram (31% vs 8%), or a pap smear (19% vs 7%) in the past 2 years (Figure 3).
- Persons without health insurance reported fewer visits for routine dental care and were twice as likely as insured persons to have had all of their teeth removed because of tooth decay or gum disease (Figure 3).

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Figure 1
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) -- 1999



Source: 1999 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=4,003)

* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared.

Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) by Gender -- 1999

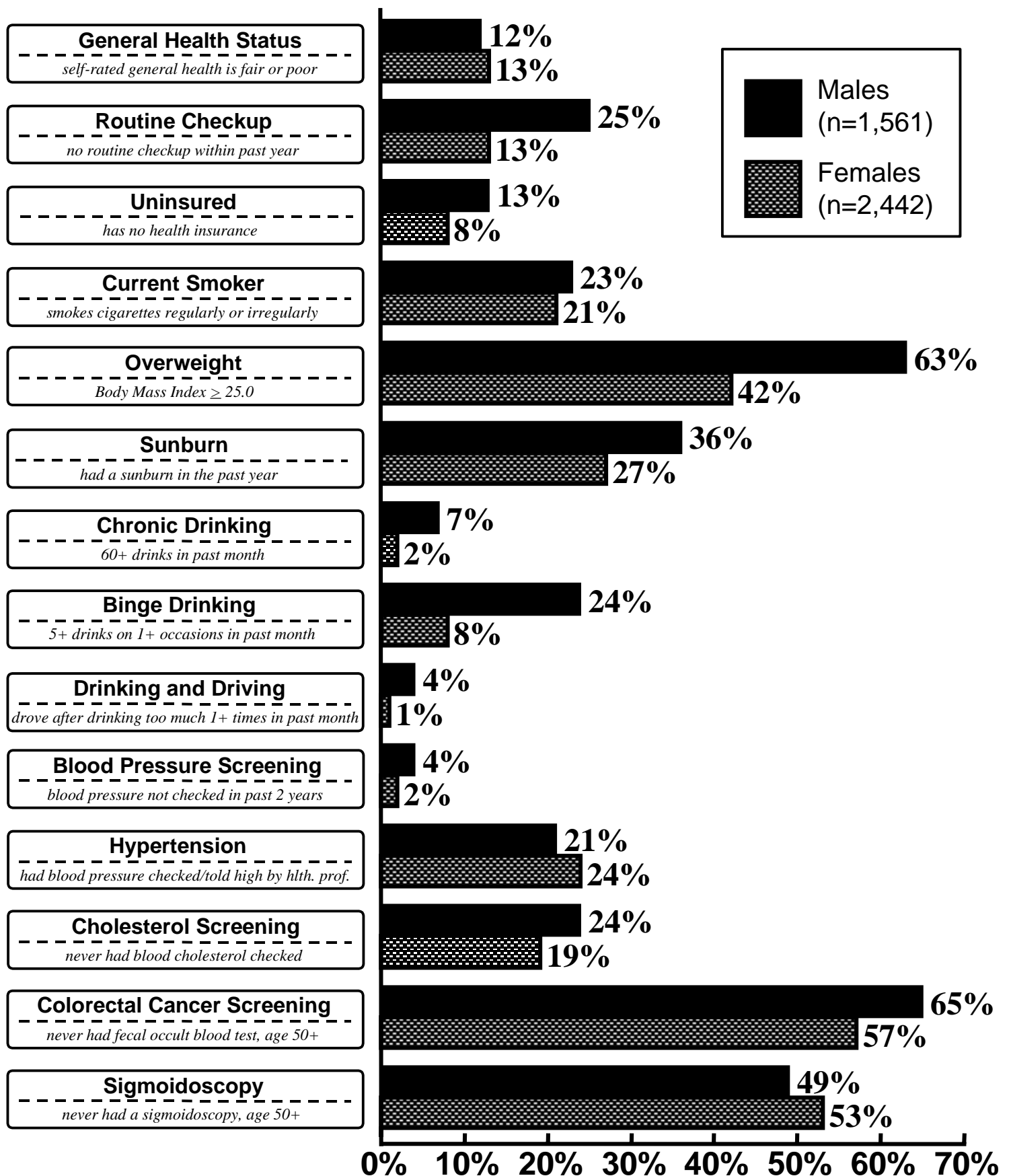


Figure3

Health Status & Access to Care Among Rhode Island Adults (Ages 18 to 64) by Health Insurance Status-- 1999

